(c) whether Government propose to improve the rural roads instead of National Highways Development Project; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the total rural roads that would be undertaken during 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Government is committed to the implementation of National Highways Development Project (NHDP). There is no proposal to reduce the financial assistance for implementation of NHDP.

(b) Out of 7300 Km. of North-South and East-West corridors being taken up under Phase-ll of the NHDP, works of four laning on 638 Km. has been completed and works on 425 Km. is under implementation. The North-South and East-West corridors are targeted for completion by December 2007.

(c) The Government is committed to improve the rural roads as well as National Highways Development Project.

(d) The number of road works cleared for 2004-05 under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana so far in eight States (Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu) is 2374.

Manpower Export Promotion Council

*460. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set-up a Manpower Export Promotion Council to regulate hiring practices for overseas jobs;

(b) if so, whether there is proposal to open a nodal office for the Council in Delhi;

(c) whether his Ministry has been asked to set-up a welfare fund for the Indian diaspora in various countries; and

(d) if so, what are other steps Government proposed to take to promote multi-dimensional welfare of NRI including workers of Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Employment generation through rural industrialisation

†2383. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to boost up rural industrialisation with the help of private and public sectors for uplifting the rural standard of living and generating more opportunities of employment by establishing better coordination between towns and villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), individual entrepreneurs, registered institutions, Self Help Groups (SHGs), NGOs, Societies and Trusts are encouraged to avail financial assistance from Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks for setting up of rural industries in the country.

Labour migration

2384. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that due to inadequate agro-based industries a large scale of labour migration is occurring in Chhattisgarh to other States leading to their exploitation in those States;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.